

Patent claims

1. A sensor system for detecting a pedestrian collision in the front region (4) of a motor vehicle (1), having at least one fiber optic sensor (5) that extends in the front region (4) of the motor vehicle (1) largely over the entire vehicle width (19) and can be deformed by the collision of an object (18, 20, 21) in the front region (4), a signal being generated by the fiber optic sensor (5) owing to the collision of the object (18, 20, 21), characterized in that in addition to the fiber optic sensor (5), there is arranged in the front region (4) of the motor vehicle (1) at least one infrared sensor (6) that generates a signal for distinguishing between the collision of animate (18, 20) and inanimate objects (21).
2. The sensor system for detecting a pedestrian collision as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the fiber optic sensor (5) is integrated in the front fender (3) of the motor vehicle (1).
3. The sensor system for detecting a pedestrian collision as claimed in claims 1 and/or 2, characterized in that the infrared sensor (6) is integrated in the front fender (3) of the motor vehicle (1).
4. The sensor system for detecting a pedestrian collision as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the signals of the fiber optic sensor (5) and of the infrared sensor (6) are evaluated by a control unit (7).
5. The sensor system for detecting a pedestrian collision as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that the control unit (7) is also fed signals from a temperature sensor (17) that are evaluated in the control unit (7) in addition to the signals of the fiber optic sensor (5) and of the infrared sensor (6).

6. The sensor system for detecting a pedestrian collision as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the control unit (7) is also fed signals from a tachometer (22) that are evaluated in the control unit (7) in addition to the signals of the fiber optic sensor (5), of the infrared sensor (6) and of the temperature sensor (17).